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## PRESS RELEASE

### **USAID Awards Contract to Provide Technical Assistance to Albania**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded a two-year contract to Advanced Engineering Associates International to provide technical assistance to the Government of Albania (GOA) to improve the performance of their electrical power distribution system. The total estimated cost of this contract is \$1,068,763.

Albania is currently experiencing widespread shortages of electricity due to impact of the severe drought in the region on their hydroelectric production. The Government faces a serious financial crisis due to the high cost of energy imports, the large non-payment by consumers for delivered power, and the inefficiency of the electricity grid. To address this situation, the Albania Government is seeking to privatize the distribution company and develop new generating facilities.

The new USAID contract will focus on development of the legal, regulatory, and market framework critical for the successful privatization of the distribution company. The new team will work closely with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy and with the privatization transaction team from the International Finance Corporation, as well as the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and other donors.

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